

THE JACKSON LABORATORY
Bar Harbor, Maine

February 17, 1966

MEMORANDUM

To: DR. SELDON E. BERNSTEIN

From: E. L. GREEN

Subj.: FUTURE OF "SHORT COURSE IN MEDICAL GENETICS"

On February 13, 1966, I talked with Dr. Victor A. McKusick about the future of the Short Course in Medical Genetics relative to our own mounting feeling that The Jackson Laboratory should be offering training that might aptly be called a Short Course in Mammalian Genetics. Victor and I discussed many alternatives and arrived at this tentative proposal of how we might proceed.

1. Continue to offer the Short Course in Medical Genetics, but in alternate (even-numbered) years. This course is to continue to be directed at professors of medicine and of medical genetics and is to draw heavily on human material, but with some emphasis upon mouse material approximately in the proportions of the past. The announcement, registration, recruitment of faculty, organization and sequence of content, business management and logistics arrangements are to be accomplished essentially as in the past.

2. Introduce a Short Course in Mammalian Genetics to be given in alternate (odd-numbered) years. This course is to be directed at research workers and professors, all having advanced degrees (Ph.D., M.D., D.V.M.), chiefly interested in mouse biology. It is to emphasize the rich parallels between the hereditary traits of the mouse and of man. A typical presentation would, for instance, consist of a full exposition of the biology of anemias of mice followed by a discussion, by someone competent to do so, of the application of this knowledge to human anemias. The course should also contain some material about how to use or prepare to use mice in research. The staff would be largely from The Jackson Laboratory and Johns Hopkins rounded out by guests where appropriate. The announcements, registration, etc., would be handled by the Laboratory.

Both courses would be given in Bar Harbor, usually during the first two weeks of August. The Medical Genetics Course might be financed as it has been. The Mammalian Genetics course probably should be financed by a different means. I believe funds from our GRS grant can be used for this purpose.

Victor pointed out a probable shortcoming, with which I am inclined to agree, of trying to merge the Mammalian Genetics Course with our present series of lectures for college students. He has found it very unsatisfactory to try to commingle predoctoral and postdoctoral people. The differences in age and experience are against success. The separation does, however, mean that we may have to launch the Mammalian Genetics Course without any

- 2 -

solid evidence about its appeal. I think there will be enough interest to justify going ahead and trying it for at least one year. The response to our first announcement will give us the first good evidence of whether it is the right thing or not.

I suggest that you call a meeting of the key staff members who are the most likely participants, discuss the ideas with them, and draft a modified plan to present to the Administrative Staff. This should be done in time to enable us to empower John Fuller to discuss the plan in full detail with Victor McKusick when they meet late in April.

ELG:ef

cc: Dr. Victor A. McKusick
Dr. John L. Fuller